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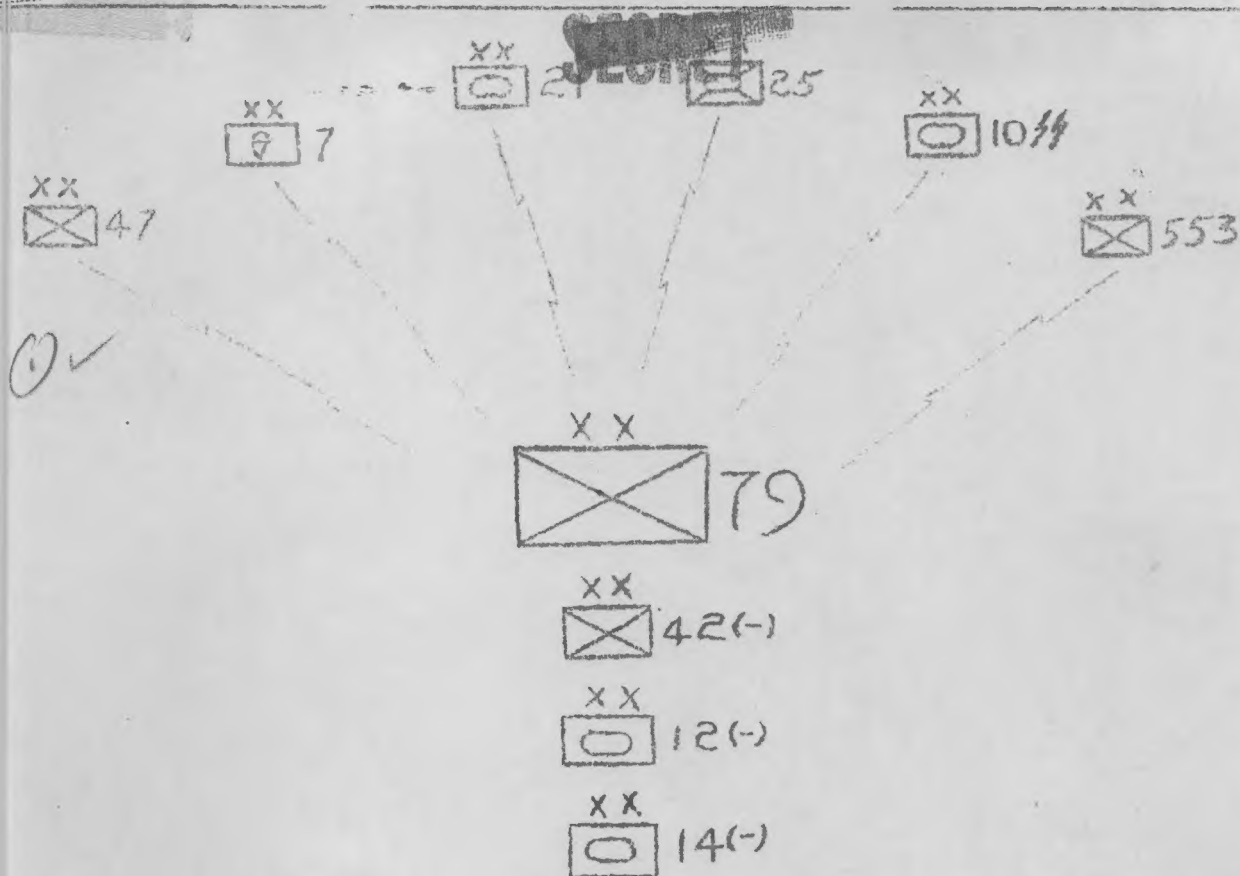
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79th DIVISION HISTORY



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1 January

Division Gr: 135334, Niederbetschdorf

On 20 December the Division discontinued its attack on the Siegfried Line and two days later it withdrew south to defensive positions. These were based on an UPL along the Lauter River and an MIA on the high ground south of the river. Late in the month enemy pressure began to develop to the west in the left sector of VI Corps. As a result, the Division made plans to withdraw to a second MIA, to be established on the Maginot Line defenses. Another result was the temporary loss to the Division of four of its infantry battalions which were shifted west to meet the growing threat of an enemy breakthrough toward Saverne. The 1st Bn, 13th (Mtz), in Corps reserve, was the first to go, passing its IR at Siegen at 1115, 1 January. In addition, the rest of the regiment, less the 3rd Bn, was ordered to be moved to the 45th Division's sector. The 2nd Bn at 1515 crossed the IR and at 1540 the rest of the regiment cleared the IR. The 3rd Bn continued to maintain the UPL in its sector. One of its outposts at 238450 dispersed a strong enemy patrol late in the afternoon, but, aside from this, little enemy contact was reported.

In the afternoon further instructions were received from VI Corps. The 1st Bn, 314th and 1st Bn, 315th were both alerted and in the evening they moved out. The former crossed the IR at 2245 and the latter at 0015, moving out in DUNAS. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions of each regiment continued to man the UPL and MIA, with Co "G", 315th taking over the 1st Battalion's UPL. They had some contact with the enemy. Patrols reached Kapsweyer and the western part of Ober Otterbach and reported these places clear. Some enemy fire was received. Two enemy planes were over the Division's sector and one, a JU-88, was shot down near Goerbach and its crew found dead.

The Division's right flank was extended at noon by the attachment of Task Force Herren (70th Infantry Division), less the 275th Infantry. The 274th continued the sector south of the Reconnaissance Troop, between Schnaffhouse and Gamsheim. The 276th Infantry assembled in reserve at Camp d'Obernoffen. The Reconnaissance Troop in the evening intercepted an enemy patrol near 315365 and drove it off with the support of artillery fire. A wounded member of this patrol was captured and interrogation revealed that the patrol had come from the east bank of the Rhine.

2 January

Division Gr: 135334, Niederbetschdorf

At noon the Division issued Field Order #1, containing instructions for the withdrawal to MIA #2. The new defensive positions were based on Maginot Line positions which Corps and Division engineers had been preparing in advance for the infantry. The first moves were made by the artillery which at 1900 initiated their withdrawal. Each of the light battalions left one battery in place, to withdraw later together with the infantry. At 2000 the infantry units began to

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pull back, with the former outposts acting as a rear guard. With them operated engineer detachments which carried out extensive demolitions. The withdrawal was made without incident and the units manning Mln #2 closed in there by 2300.

c. During the day there was considerable enemy activity on the 315th's front. Heavy flat trajectory fire fell east of Wissembourg and at Schweighofen some smoke shells fell in the village in the morning. The bridge at Wissembourg was evidently the target for enemy interdicting fire for estimated 150mm shells fell in the town sporadically. At 2000 the 2nd and 3rd Battalions moved to their new positions on a line 1044 - 1639. Co "G" and elements of Companies "H" and "I" made up the rear guard. The 3rd Bn, 313th, after a quiet day, moved back to positions between 1639 and 1935, with Co "I" acting as the covering force. In the 314th's sector patrol activity predominated with a small enemy combat patrol appearing north of Berg just before dawn. A short fire fight followed and one wounded enemy was captured. Two 314th patrols worked north of Berg into the forest and contacted each other at 328456 without having met any enemy. When the withdrawal was begun, Co "E" with supporting tanks and L's remained at Mln #1 as the covering force.

d. Elements of the Reconnaissance Troop and Task Force Herren continued to hold the Division's right flank. This flank was further extended by the attachment of Task Force Linden (42nd Infantry Division) which was operating north of Strasbourg.

3 January

a. Division Ctr: 135334, Niederetschdorf

b. By 0400 the outposts had withdrawn from Orl #1 to Mln #1 where they remained until afternoon. At only two points were enemy observed following up the withdrawal. Two soldiers were seen at the bridge site in Wissembourg at 1000. At 1500 a twelve-man patrol was seen moving from Motheren toward Neewiller. 313th TD's fired on this group and several direct hits were registered. At 1600 the outposts manning Mln #1 began their withdrawal. The 315th consolidated its positions between Drachenoronn and Hunsbach and contact was established with the 36th Engineer Regiment on the left. Co "I", 313th withdrew to battalion reserve at Leiferswiller, closing in there at 1730. The 314th maintained its outposts with Co "E" and the Third Platoon of the Reconnaissance Troop. When they pulled back at 1600, they moved into reserve at Hatten. During the day further adjustments were made in the Maginot positions by the units manning them.

c. On the Division's right flank Task Force Herren at 0300 closed into its Maginot positions. It was relieved from attachment to the Division at 1200 and units of Task Force Linden were ordered to relieve the 274th. Elements of the 781st Tank Battalion reverted to Corps control, with the exception of one platoon of Co "D" which remained attached to the Division. The Reconnaissance Troop was assembled at Bischwiller.

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4 January

a. Division CP: 135334, Niederbetschdorf
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b. During the day plans were made to commit units of Task Force Linden in other parts of the Division sector, in addition to that immediately north of Strasbourg. At 0145 the 232nd completed relief of Task Force Herren and took over the sector extending from the vicinity of 2129 to Fort-Louis and thence along the Rhine to the vicinity of 0598. The 2nd Bn, 222nd held the Rhine bank from the latter point to the boundary with the First French Army at approximately the 86 easting. The 242nd was ordered to relieve the 314th and at 1800 this relief began. The 222nd was ordered to prepare to relieve the 315th which would thereupon relieve units of the 45th further west.

c. Continued patrolling marked the day's contact with the enemy. In the morning the 315th I & II Platoon reported Riedseltz clear, but the enemy was seen at two points between the village and Wissembourg. Oberseebach and Buhl were also reported clear in the morning. However, in the afternoon more enemy were seen just outside Riedseltz and an enemy three-man patrol was captured north of Aschbach. Information from civilians indicated that the enemy was repairing the bridge at Lauterbourg and that enemy patrols were operating in the Seltz area.

5 January

a. Division Cr: 030233, Haguenau

b. A sudden eruption of the Division's eastern front greatly modified existing plans. The 232nd reported that in the early morning enemy patrols had crossed the Rhine and were active along its front and by noon it was apparent that during the night a considerable enemy force had crossed. These enemy quickly seized Offendorf and Herrlisheim and at noon were entering Gambsheim. Air Corps reported seeing many enemy crossing the Rhine. Meanwhile, at 0700 command of the 314th's sector had passed to the 242nd whose 1st and 3rd Battalions relieved the 314th during the night. The 314th was on its way to an assembly area when the Division ordered it to move to Bischwiller and attack toward Ronwiller. During the day the 315th was relieved by the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 222nd, though command of the sector was retained by the 315th. The 2nd Bn, 315th assembled at Kutzenhau- sen and Merwiller and the 3rd Bn at Preuschoorf. The 2nd Bn, 222nd was stopped at Meyersheim while en route to the 315th's sector and was attached to the 232nd. The 2nd Bn, 242nd was also diverted and joined the 232nd. The 79th Reconnaissance Troop was ordered to move at once to an area in a preparation for an attack on Ronwiller. A rearrangement of army boundaries placed Kilstett in the sector of the First French Army and, pending the relief of elements of Task Force Linden by the French, the 3rd Division d'Infanterie Algerienne was attached to the 79th.

c. The counterattack against the enemy bridgehead made slow progress. At Dru- senheim considerable enemy pressure developed but elements of the 1st Bn, 232nd repulsed the enemy's attack. At 1300 the Reconnaissance Troop reported Meyersheim

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clear but contacted an estimated enemy platoon in the vicinity of 086118. At 1540, as other elements of the Troop neared Kohrwiller, they came under mortar fire. They estimated one company of the enemy to be in the village. At 1640 the 314th closed into Bischmiller and at once initiated reconnaissance for an attack to be made on Kohrwiller and Gamsheim from the northwest. In the vicinity of Gamsheim the elements under the 232nd met stiff opposition in the afternoon and little progress was reported. In the evening the French began to relieve elements of Task Force Lincoln south of Kilstett. In this area there was no contact with the enemy though at 1410 20 rounds of artillery fire fell south of Kilstett.

d. To the north only patrol activity was reported. Night patrols of the 315th found no enemy to their front between Gleesbourg and Overseebach but day patrols found enemy near Kieuseltz and at the south edge of Kott. 313th patrols contacted enemy patrols near Overseebach and Nieversseebach and drove the latter off to the east in a fire fight. Around noon sporadic machine gun fire was received from Kieuseltz by the 2nd Bn, 315th.

6 January

a. Division C: 030233, Haguenau

b. On the northern front the first identifications were made of elements of the 21st Panzer Division and considerable patrolling was carried out by both sides. At 0445 enemy patrols in halftracks hit the Uhl of the 1st Bn, 222nd at 149419 and 160403 and the outposts temporarily withdrawn. The Uhl was re-established during the day but at 1750 the enemy attacked again with infantry and armored vehicles and one outpost was forced back. On the left, on the front of the 3rd Bn, 222nd, many patrols were active and some fire fights reported. Harassing artillery fire was received along the regiment's front with some heavy concentrations at 1900. The 3rd Bn, 313th patrolled near Bischmiller and numerous enemy were observed in that vicinity. It was evident by the end of the day that the enemy had occupied Kieuseltz, Ingolsheim and Overseebach and the northern part of Stunzwiller. Along the 242nd's front little enemy activity was seen, though civilian reports indicated that enemy patrols were continuing to work out of Seltz.

c. During the night the enemy was active in the area of his bridgehead at Gamsheim. An enemy patrol probed Stettmatten and at 0500 it was reported that elements of Co "B", 232nd were surrounded there. Elements of the Reconnaissance Troop, with a light tank platoon of the 781st Tank Battalion attached, attacked and cleared Sessenheim and recaptured Stettmatten by noon. Though outnumbered by the enemy, the Reconnaissance force quickly overwhelmed the resistance by the swiftness of its attack. The surrounded troops of Co "B" were relieved and sixty prisoners were taken. At the end of the day the 1st Bn, 232nd reestablished its lines in this sector. At 0900, the 2nd Bn, 314th attacked from Bischmiller and at 1025 it had cleared Kohrwiller against light small arms fire. It continued the attack northeast toward Drusenheim.

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By dark Companies "F" and "G" had occupied the southern part of the village where they dug in for the night. Co "I" remained in the woods to the west in the vicinity of 148177. The 3rd Bn moved from Bischwiller to Ronwiller in the afternoon and in the evening established a bridgehead over the Moder River in the vicinity of 125170. Corps engineers thereupon began work on a bridge at this site. The 2nd Battalions of the 222nd and the 242nd, with Troop "D" of the 94th Cavalry, in the morning launched an attack toward Gampenheim from the northwest. They progressed as far as the woods at Lull where at noon the enemy counterattacked with armor support. The two battalions fell back to the canal in the vicinity of 078121 where they dug in to defend their line. On their right the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 232nd met heavy resistance in their attack north from Hilstett toward Gampenheim. Little progress was made in this sector during the day. The elements of the 252nd at Hoesrat and La Wantzenau were relieved during the day by elements of the 3rd DIA which was thereupon released from attachment to the 79th.

7 January

a. Division Gt: 030233, Haguenau

b. The Division placed the northern part of its front under Task Force Wahl, assigning to it the 3rd Bn, 313th, the 315th (-), the 222nd (-), CC "A" of the 1st Armored Division and the 827th TD Battalion. CC "A" closed into assembly areas in the vicinity of Soultz at 0530 and during the day made reconnaissance for a counterattack in the sector of the 3rd Bn, 313th. It was in this sector that the enemy made his first attacks on the Division's lines. Following a night during which enemy vehicular activity had been heard, the enemy at 0715 attacked the 313th's outposts in Aschbach and Stundwiller with infantry supported by ten tanks. The outposts were driven from the villages following street fighting and by 0935 they had withdrawn to the MLN. Approximately one platoon was cut off in Aschbach but it managed to reach the MLN at 1430 with only light casualties. During the day the enemy made five attacks against the 313th. Fifteen tanks supported the enemy's infantry and of these tanks, five were knocked out, two by mines and the other three by AT and artillery fire. The enemy had little artillery support and the few rounds received were inaccurate. In the afternoon the Division's artillery and mortar fire kept the enemy at a distance. Little enemy activity was observed though in the evening movement was reported around Ingolsheim and Buhl. On the 313th's flanks, in the sectors of the 222nd and 242nd, there was considerable patrolling by both sides, but no enemy pressure developed. The 315th remained in reserve during the day. Its 2nd Bn moved to Hoffen where it closed in at 1115; it was attached to it Co "B" of the 47th Tank Battalion which closed into Kuntendorf at 1600.

c. During the night the enemy continued to build up his forces in the Gampenheim bridgehead, reinforcing those already there with tanks and 88 and AT guns. The enemy's new strength was apparent shortly after the 2nd Bn, 314th attacked to clear the enemy from Drusenheim. The enemy almost at once counterattacked

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with about a battalion of infantry and eight or ten tanks. The 2nd Bn was forced back into the northern part of the village, losing five of its supporting tanks. Other enemy attacks southeast of Rohrwiller against the 3rd Bn, 314th were not as successful. The first was broken up by tank and artillery fire. The enemy then reformed and attacked again, but was driven off a second time by tank and artillery fire. In both these actions against the 314th, the enemy lost five tanks with two others listed as probables. Northwest of Gamsenheim, little activity was reported by the 2nd Battalions of the 22nd and 242nd which remained in the vicinity of Ob12. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the 232nd were relieved by elements of the 3rd DIA. These French troops attacked from Kilstett in the afternoon in the direction of Gamsenheim. Against stiff resistance they advanced into Bettenmorren, but enemy counterattacks from the east forced them to withdraw to Kilstett. In the sector between the 242nd and the 314th, moderate enemy activity was reported by the 1st Bn, 232nd and the 79th Reconnaissance Troop. The latter found Runtzenheim and Auenheim clear but enemy were observed in positions east of Roebenwoog and the 232nd intercepted an enemy patrol at Stettmatten.

1. CC "B" of the 12th Armored Division was attached to the 79th during the day. At 2310 it closed into assembly areas in the vicinity of Gries - Meyersheim - Bischwiller.

8 January

1. Division Gr: 030233, Haguenau

2. During the night enemy vehicular activity was heard by the 3rd Bn, 313th and at 0700 the first of the enemy's attacks took place. Elements of the 21st Panzer Division attacked from the vicinity of Stundwiller but were driven back by small arms and artillery fire. At 0800 they attacked again with the support of ten tanks. This second attack continued until about noon when the enemy again withdrew, after having suffered heavy casualties and the loss of three tanks. Shortly thereafter, the enemy was reported to be reforming in Stundwiller with fifteen tanks and a battalion of infantry. After twelve P-47's thoroughly worked over the village, the sector quieted down with only light harassing artillery and mortar fire. Some enemy movement was observed to the front of the 222nd. A friendly patrol came under heavy small arms fire in Gleebourg and in the evening enemy were reported digging in around the village. An enemy half-track and squad of infantry seen just north of Ingoisheim were taken under fire and wiped out by the 813th TD Battalion. The 2nd Bn, 222nd moved from the Gamsenheim area to Soultz where it closed in at 1600. The 3rd Bn, 315th moved to an area northeast of Soultz where it set up defensive positions to protect the town in case of a breakthrough. The 242nd continued to patrol from its MLR; one of its patrols came under automatic fire at 2110. Its 2nd Bn moved from the Gamsenheim area to Mittershoffen where it closed in at 2030.

3. North of the Gamsenheim bridgehead the Reconnaissance Troop continued its patrols, clearing Koppenheim, but finding enemy near Fort-Louis. At 1000 the 3rd Bn, 314th attacked southeast from the vicinity of Rohrwiller. Heavy small

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...nas, mortar and artillery fire was met and only slow progress was made. The bridge at 130168 was out and this hampered the attack considerably, and, in addition, the enemy remained very aggressive. Several counterattacks were repulsed and at dark the battalion was on a line 131163 - 131166. Other elements repulsed enemy attempts to cross the river at 138170 - 140168, but the 2nd Bn was unable to cross the river at Drusenheim owing to heavy enemy fire. At 1030 elements of CG "B" of the 12th Armored attacked south from Hounwiller toward Herrlisheim. They also met heavy enemy fire but succeeded in reaching a point one kilometer north of their objective. T. and Bn, 232nd relieved the 2nd Battalions of the 222nd and the 242nd and established defensive positions on a line 063117 - 090126. The 3rd Bn, 232nd moved into reserve at Muechmiller. Contact between the 2nd Bn, 232nd and CG "B" was maintained by Troop "D" of the 74th Cavalry which patrolled east of Meyersheim.

9 January

a. Division Cr: 030233, Haguenau

b. At about 0500 the 3rd Bn, 313th and the 1st Bn, 242nd received an enemy probing attack that was broken up by artillery fire. Shortly thereafter, the enemy - elements of the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division - again attacked; this time with two battalions of infantry supported by seven tanks. The attack was made toward Hatten and at one point it penetrated the line. Two pillboxes were lost and some enemy reached the edge of Hatten before the attack was thrown back. The enemy was repulsed with heavy casualties and the loss of two tanks, and at 1145 the line was restored. Following an artillery preparation, the enemy at 1300 again attacked the positions of the 242nd. This attack was made in great strength, with the 25th Panzer Grenadier Division using twenty of its organic tanks, eight halftracks and nine personnel carriers. This force encircled Hatten and had reached the eastern edge of Rittershoffen when it was counterattacked by TD's and Co "A" of the 48th Tank Battalion (CG "A"). 11-14 enemy tanks were knocked out and the enemy driven back. The 2nd Bn, 242nd was committed and, supported by the tank company, it reentered Hatten. Stiff opposition was met but by midnight about two-thirds of the village had been retaken. The 2nd Bn, 315th was moved to positions in the vicinity of 1734, prepared to assist the 242nd. The 3rd Bn moved up to Hatten. Enemy activity elsewhere on the front of Task Force Wahl was negligible.

c. The bridgehead over the Moser River in the vicinity of 130168 was the target for heavy fire that hampered the Corps engineers in their bridging operations. At 0915 an enemy attack drove the bridgehead in, but the 714th Tank Battalion counterattacked and drove off the enemy's supporting SP guns. The 3rd Bn, 314th occupied the bridgehead and at 1800 repelled a second enemy attack. This time the enemy threw in tanks from the north and infantry from the south, but the 314th's lines held. Meanwhile, elements of the 56th Armored Infantry Battalion and the 714th Tank Battalion had progressed south in their attack on Herrlisheim. Considerable resistance was met but these troops occupied the northern part of the village by dark and took many prisoners. Little activity was reported from the front of Task Force Linden where the 232nd adjusted its positions and continued to reorganize.

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10 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

b. Fighting continued in Hatten during the night and at dawn the 2nd Bn, 315th and 2nd Bn, 242nd launched an attack. Some progress was made despite stiff resistance from the enemy who at 1030 counterattacked from the northeast with tanks and infantry. Some of this force attempted to infiltrate north of Hatten in order to swing down and cut the Hatten - Rittershoffen road. The 3rd Bn, 315th assembled in Rittershoffen and was partially committed north of the village to block the gap between Hatten and the 3rd Bn, 313th. A strong enemy combat patrol in the morning probed the 313th's lines from the south, but was repulsed. At 1500 the 2nd Bn, 242nd was ordered to move back from Hatten to Rittershoffen to reorganize. Although most of the battalion was able to withdraw, some elements remained in Hatten, fighting alongside the 315th. There one enemy tank was knocked out by bazooka fire and another by the 48th Tank Battalion. Fighting in the village died down at dusk, although two enemy tanks remained, one in front of the church which was being developed by the enemy into a strongpoint. On the rest of the front of Task Force Hahl only moderate enemy activity was observed during the day. Enemy planes were active over this sector in the afternoon and several bombing and strafing incidents were reported.

c. At 0130 the bridgehead of the 3rd Bn, 314th was the target for an attack by enemy infantry, supported by two SP guns. This attack was repulsed and by 0440 the sector was quiet except for light harassing artillery fire. During the night the elements of CC "B" in Herrlisheim were engaged in hard fighting and at 0330 they were reported surrounded. At 0620 714th tanks moved from Rohrwiler down to the village which they reached after cutting through the enemy ring. Heavy enemy pressure continued and preparations were made to withdraw these troops. Although enemy tanks and infantry were observed to the 314th's front during the day, this sector remained quiet. However, the 2nd Bn continued to receive heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire in Drusenheim. To the north the 79th Reconnaissance Troop made a reconnaissance of areas east of the MUR of Task Force Linden. It reported Fort-Louis occupied by enemy and reported Roppenheim clear, although it captured a five-man patrol near the village.

11 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

b. During the night the 2nd Bn, 315th heard considerable tank activity at the eastern end of Hatten and the Artillery placed two TOT's on this area. Soon after dawn enemy pressure on the battalion was resumed. At the same time ten tanks moved from the eastern edge of the village around to the northern edge, firing into the positions of the 315th. Under this covering fire and aided by a ground haze, enemy tanks and infantry moved west to attack Rittershoffen. At this time, enemy began encircling Hatten again and contact was lost

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with the 2nd Bn, 315th for the next two days. The 827th TD Battalion knocked out four of these tanks, together with one scout car and one armored car. At 0840 the enemy was contacted by the 3rd Bn, 315th at the northeast corner of Rittershoffen where the enemy was halted until he brought up more tanks. During the day the 3rd Bn was slowly forced back by an estimated fifteen tanks and two battalions of infantry. Two more tanks were knocked out in the village but by midnight the enemy had occupied about two-thirds of Rittershoffen. At 1615 elements of CC "A" were committed: Co "B", 68th Armored Infantry Battalion, with a platoon of tanks, attacked from southwest of Rittershoffen, while Companies "A" and "C" of the 68th and Co "C" of the 48th attacked from the northwest. The latter force was able to advance to the Rittershoffen - Leiterswiller road, but here it was met by such heavy fire that it had to withdraw to positions approximately 150336 - 158347. The former force met less opposition and worked up to the vicinity of 153332. The 2nd Bn, 222nd was moved from Soultz to south of Leiterswiller where at 1130 it closed in, establishing a defensive line 158352 - 167360 with which the armored infantry later tied in. Throughout the day the enemy placed heavy fire on Hatten and Rittershoffen with his artillery and mortars. The sector of the 3rd Bn, 313th received some heavy artillery concentrations during the day but the enemy displayed no aggressiveness here. In the sectors of the 222nd and 242nd only patrol activity was reported.

c. In the sector of Task Force Linden the 79th Reconnaissance Troop again patrolled to the front of the 232nd. It reported Auenheim, Runtzenheim, Stattmatten and Roeschwoog clear after killing three and wounding three members of a six-man enemy patrol in the last town. A road block of carts and felled trees was located at 231266 and of an estimated platoon defending this block six were killed before the Troop withdrew. A patrol of the 232nd reported Kauffenheim clear in the afternoon. The 314th was not active during the day and the enemy did not resume his attacks on the regiment's positions at Drusenheim and the bridgehead. During the day sporadic artillery fire was received in this sector. As planned the previous day, the elements of CC "B" of the 12th Armored in Herrlisheim withdrew during the night and set up positions along the western bank of the Zorn River. Their right flank was tied in with the positions of the 2nd Bn, 232 at Meyersheim. Patrols in this sector reported that the enemy had dug in near the river at Herrlisheim and that enemy vehicular movement was heard in the village.

12 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

b. At about 2200, 11 January, enemy tanks and infantry resumed their attack on the 2nd Bn, 315th and through the night the fighting continued. Heavy house to house fighting went on during the day with the enemy pressure being made by tanks on the north and infantry on the east sides of the village. The battalion was forced into the southwestern corner of Hatten where the enemy was held from making further gains. Meanwhile, at 0800 the 3rd Bn and CC "A" of the 14th Armored had attacked to clear the enemy from Rittershoffen.

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etermined resistance and well-directed fire forced the armored unit to withdraw. At 1130 CC "B" attacked and CC "A" reverted to 14th Armored control from Task Force Wahl. Elements of CC "B" reached points north and south of Rittershoffen from where they placed accurate fire on enemy positions within the village. As at Hatten, the enemy had formed a strongpoint at the eastern end of the village, using the church and near-by cemetery. However, CC "B" came under heavy fire itself and at darkness it withdrew to the west, leaving the 3rd Bn holding the western end of the village. Enemy fire in the two villages continued to be very heavy and in the sector of the 3rd Bn, 313th some heavy artillery concentrations were received. With the two combat commands of the 14th Armored in the vicinity of Rittershoffen, the 2nd Bn, 222nd was moved to Soultz, leaving Co "G" holding the defensive positions south of Leiterswiller.

c. The situation in the area of the bridgehead continued quiet. The Reconnaissance Troop found Roeschwoog, Leutenheim, Stattmatten and Dengolsheim clear during the morning. An enemy patrol was contacted by the Troop in the vicinity of 200241 at 1345 and two of the five enemy were killed. The 314th continued to hold Drusenheim and its bridgehead and reported little contact. Patrols of CC "B", 12th Armored, reported enemy still entrenched on the east bank of the canal southwest of Herrlisheim and reported enemy activity in the vicinity of 122152 at 1600. Drusenheim was harassed during the afternoon by artillery and direct fire and Rohrwiller received a concentration of mortar fire.

13 January.

c. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

1. At 0800 the 14th Armored Division was given command of the sector between the 222nd and the 242nd. The 3rd Bn, 313th and the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 315th were attached to the 14th Armored at this time. The night in both Hatten and Rittershoffen was relatively quiet though continuous traffic was heard on the Buhl - Hatten road until 0200. In the morning the 14th Armored resumed its attack to the east. Some progress was made by the 3rd Bn and CC "A" in Rittershoffen where heavy fighting took place throughout the day. Two tanks were reported destroyed and two captured in Rittershoffen by the armored units. CC "R" attacked south of Rittershoffen in the direction of Hatten and late in the afternoon elements of the 19th Armored Infantry Battalion reached the village and contacted the 2nd Bn, 315th after the latter had been isolated for two days. Artillery, mortar, small arms and tank fire in both villages were intense, especially near the church areas in each village. In the evening much enemy traffic was heard moving into Hatten, but it was at Rittershoffen where the enemy's night attack developed. At 2200 the enemy attacked with infantry and flame-throwing tanks and heavy fighting raged for an hour. The enemy was thrown back with 3-5 tanks destroyed and by 2330 the enemy's threat was over. During the night patrols of the 3rd Bn, 313th reported that the bridge at 180349 was being repaired under the protection

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of one tank and approximately thirty-five infantry. In the morning artillery fire was placed on this target and at noon two direct hits were made, thereby depriving the enemy of one of his important bridges over the Seltz River. Light harassing fire was reported from the sectors of the 222nd and 313th, except for a heavy concentration that landed in the 222nd's sector in the evening. During the early evening the 242nd adjusted its units and positions. The 1st and 2nd Battalions were relieved at 1930 by the 3rd Bn which took up positions at the edge of the woods on a line 160322 - 180323. The 1st and 2nd Battalions established positions on the right flank of the 3rd Bn and tied in with the 232nd in the vicinity of 195295. In this sector the road from 187-326 to 221305 was reported heavily patrolled by the enemy.

c. In the bridgehead area, the situation remained unchanged and no aggressiveness was displayed by the enemy. The 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 232nd maintained their positions between the Sauer River and Drusenheim. In the afternoon patrols found Dengolsheim and Roeschwoog clear but a seven-man enemy patrol was seen moving north from Kauffenheim. The 314th's 2nd Bn maintained its positions in Drusenheim with Co "F" holding the woods between the village and the 3rd Bn. Enemy infantry and vehicular movement was reported in the vicinity of 149172 and enemy patrols were observed in front of the 314th's sector, but they made no attempt to cross the river. On the right flank of the 314th elements of OC "B" maintained their positions along the canal. They reported long range small arms fire and directed artillery fire on enemy manning positions on the east bank of the canal, southwest of Herrlisheim.

14 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

b. Heavy fighting continued in Hatten and Rittershoffen during the day. The units in Hatten made some progress as they attempted to clear the enemy from the northwest corner of the village. However, at 2210 the enemy launched a counterattack which likewise made some progress before it was stopped. The enemy's force consisted of an unestimated number of infantry with four tanks in support, but by 2330 the attack had been stopped. The enemy also counterattacked in Rittershoffen during the day. This attack took place between 1430 and 1500 and was repulsed without appreciable loss of ground. The sectors of the 222nd, 313th and 242nd continued quiet with only light harassing fire reported. Patrols reported that the important bridge at Ingolsheim was guarded by the enemy, although Air OP's reported it passable only for foot troops. At 1900 the enemy was again seen attempting to repair it and at once the Division's artillery began a program of harassing fires directed at the bridge. At 0220 the 313th (-) was relieved from attachment to the 45th Division and during the morning it returned to the 79th's sector. It closed into areas in the vicinity of Hoffen and Hermerswiller at 1300 and was attached to Task Force Wahl. The 1st Bn, 242nd was moved to an area west of Rittershoffen where it assumed defensive positions on a line 142340 - 142327; its former positions were taken over by the

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2nd Bn, 242nd. ME-292's were active over the Division's sector again during the day. Some light bombs were dropped but little damage was reported.

c. The southern sector of the Division's front was again quiet with patrol activities predominating. Patrols of the 242nd contacted enemy patrols in the Forêt de Hatten with unknown results. Elements of Companies "A" and "L", 232nd occupied Roeschwoog against no opposition while a squad outposted Kaufenheim. In the 314th's sector tanks of Co "B", 47th Tank Battalion knocked out two enemy tanks near 135156 at 1400. The regiment sent a patrol into the southern part of Drusenheim where it drew fire from two machine guns. These were quickly taken under mortar fire and silenced. CC "B" reported that a strong enemy patrol probed their lines at 105145 shortly before dawn. It was driven off by artillery and small arms fire. However, later it was reported that it was possible that a number of the enemy might have continued on through the lines. CC "B" committed a reserve company which searched the area south of the Bischwiller - Rohrwiller road to their boundary, but no enemy were found. Rohrwiller and Drusenheim were shelled and the road between the two towns was harassed by the enemy's artillery.

15 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

b. During the night heavy traffic was observed moving into Hatten from Aschbach, Buhl and Forstfeld. At about 0500 the enemy resumed his attack in the village with infantry and flame-throwing tanks. During the next two hours he made five attempts to advance but each was thrown back. By 0645 the battle had subsided. At 1450 the enemy attacked again with an estimated battalion of infantry supported by tanks. Coming in from the east, the enemy at first made some gains. Elements of the 47th Tank Battalion were committed, entering Hatten from the south and, after contacting the 315th to the west, the armor advanced east. Much of the ground lost to the enemy's attack was then regained. The enemy at Rittershoffen were much less active though the fighting there continued through the day. At 1930 the enemy fired a heavy barrage of mortar and artillery fire but no attack followed. Elsewhere on the northern front, the activity consisted of patrolling and harassing artillery fire. During the day elements of another first-class enemy division were identified when prisoners were taken from the 7th Parachute Division. Its commitment underscored the importance of this battle to the enemy and also emphasized the losses incurred by the 21st Panzer Division and 25th Panzer Grenadier Division.

c. The southern front was again inactive. Rohrwiller was the target for occasional medium battery concentrations as well as SP fire, and Drusenheim was shelled by a few rounds of mortar fire in the morning. A group of enemy was observed between the canal and 091133 at 0800 and were taken under artillery fire. At 1900 CC "B" was detached from the 79th and reverted to 12th Armored control, as did Co "B", 47th Tank Battalion.

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16 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

b. Heavy fighting continued throughout the day in Hatten and Rittershoffen. Some progress in Hatten was made during the night but increased enemy pressure in the afternoon and evening cancelled the gains made in the northern and eastern parts of the village. At 1710 the enemy counterattacked with three companies and after a battle during the evening the enemy was repelled. In Rittershoffen little progress was made and less activity was reported from there than on the previous day. Enemy artillery and mortar fire pounded the village and in the evening the MSR to Hatten was the target for the enemy's artillery and mortars. 600 rounds were received along this road leading into the village from the south. Stepped-up artillery and mortar fire was reported generally along the entire northern front. At noon Hoffen received heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire with 300 rounds falling between 1150 and 1208. In the evening the 222nd received long-range automatic fire from the vicinity of Ingolsheim, in addition to an increase in artillery and mortar fire. Enemy planes were again active in this sector and AP bombs were dropped at Niederbetschdorf and Schwabwiller. The 1st Bn, 315th was detached from the 45th Division and moved to Hoffen, closing in there at 1600.

c. Both during the night and in the morning enemy traffic was heard around Forstfeld, but during the rest of the day this part of the front remained quiet. At 0200 an outpost of the 232nd at 177208 reported a fifteen-man enemy patrol. At 0845 an estimated company of infantry was reported moving out from Dalhunden in the direction of Sessenheim. A force of infantry and tanks was sent out by the 232nd and contacted the enemy at Dengolsheim. Against light resistance this village was cleared by 1345 and the enemy driven back into Dalhunden. At 1545 friendly planes bombed this village with unobserved results. The 314th's positions remained the same during the day; the 1st Bn returned to regimental control and closed in at Oberhoffen at 0520. The 2nd Bn received a very heavy artillery counter-preparation beginning at 0130 and the 3rd Bn an intense one at 0200 when the 12th Armored attacked. Throughout the day Drusenheim and Rohrwiller received heavy artillery and mortar fire. Preceded by a thirty minute artillery preparation, CC "B" attacked at 0200 to organize a bridgehead southeast of Rohrwiller. It reached the railroad tracks at 138160 but at 1050 the enemy began a strong counterattack, making the bridgehead untenable. At 1230 CC "B" started a withdrawal, moving back to Rohrwiller for reorganization. CC "A" attacked for Le Steinwald from the southwest but due to heavy enemy fire from the woods it was only able to reach the western edge of the woods. By evening it had established a line 105121 - 100130.

17 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

b. In the sector of Task Force Wahl heavy traffic was again heard and a medium to heavy volume of artillery fire was received along the front. Enemy patrols were active and forced the Division's outposts to withdraw temporarily, especially in the 242nd's sector. The 1st Bn, 315th was attached to the 14th Armored

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and at 0630 it attacked Rittershoffen. Light resistance was met at first and by 0700 it had reached the northwest edge of the village. Later in the morning, however, resistance stiffened and heavy fighting took place. Enemy fire was intense with five hundred rounds of mortar fire being received in ninety minutes, while the artillery fire was the heaviest yet. At dark the 1st Bn, 315th withdrew to positions west of the village. At Hatten the enemy attacked at 0850 with tanks and infantry. Considerable pressure was placed on the 2nd Bn and elements of the 14th Armored until the latter counterattacked with tanks and broke up the enemy's attack. Tank and mortar fire in the village was heavy but the amount of artillery fire slackened off during the day. The sectors of the 222nd and 313th remained quiet though enemy movement to their fronts was observed.

c. In the sector of the 232nd there was a considerable increase in enemy pressure. At about midnight heavy mortar and artillery fire was received at Roeschwoog and shortly thereafter enemy infantry pressure caused the outposts there to withdraw. The enemy also became aggressive in the Dalhunden area. A battalion of infantry supported by six tanks or assault guns, borrowed from the units in the Hatten area, occupied Dengolsheim, Stattmatten and a part of Sessenheim. Elements of Co "B", 232nd were by-passed by the enemy when occupying the latter village. Enemy infantry also entrenched themselves along the railroad tracks southwest of Sessenheim. In the afternoon elements of Co "A" with tank support counterattacked and at 1500 the enemy was driven from Sessenheim and contact re-established with Co "B". About thirty prisoners were taken, two tanks were destroyed and two others probably destroyed, and heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy. By evening the enemy had been pushed back east of the railroad tracks. In the evening the 232nd was reinforced when the 1st Bn, 313th and 1st Bn, 314th moved to Soufflenheim. In the 314th's sector enemy patrols were active during the night and in the day Rohrwiller again received heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire. The 2nd and 3rd Battalions remained in their positions, though Co "I" accompanied the 1st Bn on the move to Soufflenheim. The 2nd Bn (-) was at Drusenheim with Companies "F", "K" and "L" holding the line down to the Rohrwiller bridgehead. Co "B" of the 12th Armored again met heavy resistance as it attacked from Rohrwiller toward Herrlisheim and at the end of the day it had to withdraw to Rohrwiller. Other elements of the 12th Armored made more gains toward Herrlisheim from the southwest and in the evening they occupied about one-fourth of the village.

18 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

b. During the day the enemy remained on the offensive continually in Hatten. His first attack came at 0645 and was made by a small force of infantry, supported by one tank. At 1545 artillery fire stopped a second attack. In the evening a third attack was made with tanks and infantry but by 2100 it was contained. Three enemy tanks were reported knocked out by the 827th TD Battalion

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in the Hatten area during the day. In Rittershoffen the enemy withdrew slightly to better defensive positions and 315th patrols captured four prisoners from an enemy position. On the 313th's front there was some vehicular activity during the night in the Aschbach - Stundwiller area, but a 313th patrol reported Aschbach clear in the evening.

c. In the sector of Task Force Linden between Auenheim and Drusenheim considerable enemy pressure developed. At 0700 enemy infantry with two or three tanks in support attacked Sessenheim. They took the village and Co "B", 232nd was driven north to the vicinity of 185235. Continuing the attack, the enemy cleared the Bois de Sessenheim and forced Co "K", 232nd to withdraw to the Bois de Soufflenheim at 1430. At 1630 the Division counterattacked with a force composed of Companies "A" and "B" of the 314th and the 1st Bn, 410th. The latter battalion had been attached to the Division from the 103rd Infantry Division and had closed into an area at Schirrhofen at 0600. This counter-attack met stiff resistance and in the evening the battalions were forced to establish defensive positions along the edge of the Bois de Soufflenheim from 150200 to 167220. Co "I" and elements of the 1st Bn, 314th and Co "C" of the 313th established positions in the Bois de Runtzenheim, reinforcing Co "C", 232nd which was holding Runtzenheim. A continued enemy build-up in this area was indicated as the 314th and 232nd observed troop concentrations in the areas to their front. CC "A" and CC "B" of the 12th Armored met very strong resistance and CC "A" was forced to withdraw to the west bank of the canal 090128 - 128166.

19 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau

b. In Hatten enemy troop movement was heard at 0100 and 0615 but artillery fire quickly stopped this activity each time. At 0800 the enemy attacked from the north, east and southeast and during the next ninety minutes it was estimated that the enemy fired 3000 rounds of artillery, mortar and tank fire. By 0930 the attack had been stopped without loss of ground, although the enemy's tanks continued active until noon. In Rittershoffen the situation remained the same and an alert enemy prevented the forces there from advancing or patrolling. The Division's artillery reported knocking out three enemy tanks in this sector during the day. A fifty-man enemy patrol was dispersed by a reinforced 242nd outpost in the vicinity of 200310 at 1500.

c. In the southern sector shortly before midnight the enemy attacked the 12th Armored's positions south of Rohrwiller. The troops making the attack were identified as belonging to the 10th SS Panzer Division, the fourth first-class enemy division to be committed in the 79th's sector in two weeks. The enemy pushed into the southern part of the village but the attack was repulsed and the enemy thrown back. At 0530 another attack was in progress and by 0820 a crossing had been forced at 108142. The attack continued throughout the day though at a considerable loss of tanks to the enemy. The 12th Armored reported knocking out 16 tanks, including two enemy-operated Shermans, and heavy artillery accounted for three more west of Herrlisheim. In the evening the 12th

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Armored was relieved by the 143rd (36th Infantry Division). During the day the 411th (- 2nd Bn; the 1st Bn, 410th was later attached to it) and the 1st Battalions of the 313th and 314th were attached to Task Force Linden. At 0530 the 411th and Co "A", 781st Tank Battalion attacked for Sessenheim and, meeting only light small arms fire, were able to advance up to 75 yards inside the village. At this point, however, heavy artillery and direct fire was met and at 0900 a withdrawal was made, after the 781st had lost eight tanks. Positions along the edge of the Bois de Soufflenheim were then established by the 411th. The enemy attacked in the 314th's sector at 1820 following a day-long build-up. The attack was made on Drusenheim from the northeast and south by tanks and from the southwest (146173) by infantry. Two battalions of the 10th SS Panzer Division were identified as the attackers and by 2100 they had surrounded the village, having infiltrated to the rear of Co "F". An attempt to break out was made at 2200 but it was unsuccessful.

20 January

a. Division CP: 030233, Haguenau
900172, Schwindratzheim

b. Along the Division's front there was a sharp decrease in activity and in enemy pressure. Contact was lost during the night with the 2nd Bn, 314th at Drusenheim. Approximately 100 men were able to get out of the village by infiltrating through the enemy's lines and the remainder of the battalion was reported missing in action. The battalion's stand had evidently dislocated the enemy's plans for he did not follow up his gains in strength. Enemy, however, infiltrated through the Bois de Drusenheim to 129180 and caused the 3rd Bn, 411th to lose contact with the 3rd Bn, 314th at 1100. Heavy artillery fire was received in the 314th and 411th sectors in the afternoon. In the morning there was some activity in the Runtzenheim - Sessenheim area where pressure was reported against Co "C", 313th and Co "I", 314th at the southern edge of the Bois de Runtzenheim. They also reported hearing tracked vehicles moving north out of Sessenheim. The northern sector of the Division's front was relatively quiet, though close contact was maintained at Hatten and Rittershoffen.

c. At dark the Division began withdrawing its units to new defensive positions. These positions were to be based on the Moder River between 936271 and 095195, with the MLR on the south bank and the outposts on the north bank. At 1930 all foot troops started to pull back with the exception of the 2nd Bn, 315th. This battalion broke contact with the enemy and withdrew at 2150 without interference. In the sector of Task Force Linden the 1st Bn, 313th remained as the rear guard, while CC "A" of the 14th Armored acted as the rear guard for the troops withdrawing from the north. The following sectors were assigned the units: the 222nd 937271 - 007247; the 313th 007247 - 050237; the 242nd 050237 - 071219; the 410th 071219 - 083208 and the 314th 083208 - 095195.

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21 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. During the night the Division successfully withdrew from contact with the enemy and there was no apparent follow-up through the Forêt de Haguenau. The main bodies of the units closed in at the new positions by 0830 and the rear guards by 1100. CC "A" of the 14th Armored passed through the MLR at Haguenau at 1420 en route to its assembly area and at 1500 it reverted to 14th Armored control. During the evening the 411th returned to the sector and control of the 103rd Division. Its sector of the MLR was taken over by the 314th and the 242nd, with the boundary between the two regiments at 075216. The 232nd was moved by truck from Haguenau to Bossendorf where it closed in at about 2000 as Corps reserve. The 315th moved into Division reserve in the area Hochstett - Winterhouse.

c. There was considerable enemy pressure on the 36th Division on the 79th's right flank. Some enemy activity was seen northeast of Bischwiller late in the afternoon and was taken under artillery fire. Shortly after dark the OPL of the 314th and the 242nd was driven in by infantry in the vicinity of the Camp d'Oberhoffen.

22 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. During the night enemy infantry and tanks were heard in the vicinity of Camp d'Oberhoffen and Kaltenhouse received some tank fire. From noon on, the indications of an enemy build-up became more apparent for infantry, tanks, artillery and AT guns were reported moving to Camp d'Oberhoffen, Oberhoffen-sur-Moder, Oberhoffen and the Bois d'Oberhoffen. This concentration of enemy forces made it necessary for outposts of the 313th, 242nd and 314th to withdraw to the Moder River. The enemy carried on extensive patrolling on the north, northwest and east sides of Haguenau. Some enemy tanks were observed north of Haguenau and two TD's with the 313th were knocked out by tank fire near the bridge at 041246. No enemy were observed south of the Haguenau - Mertzwiller road in the 222nd sector. The 313th sector received light artillery, mortar and direct fire. The 1st Bn, 315th moved to Marienthal where it closed in at 1900.

23 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. Enemy patrols were active during the night along the Division's front and were taken under small arms and artillery fire. Throughout the day the enemy continued to close on the Moder River and much vehicular and foot traffic was observed, especially in the Oberhoffen area. Tactical reconnaissance in the morning reported that the enemy was assembling much infantry, tanks and artillery north of the Haguenau forest. In the morning an estimated company of

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infantry was seen in the vicinity of 042254 and was dispersed by artillery fire. In the afternoon a TOT was fired by the artillery on the tanks and infantry gathering in Oberhoffen. During the day enemy patrols were active in the 222nd sector and were engaged by the outposts. Enemy planes were also active and Weitbruch was bombed and strafed four times and Kaltenhouse was bombed twice during the day. The 1st Bn, 222nd, in reserve, was moved from Keffendorf to Ohlungen where it closed in at 1630.

24 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. Much patrolling was carried out during the night, both by the Division and the enemy, but little fire was received by the units manning the MLR. A patrol of the 222nd drew considerable fire north of Schweighausen and enemy patrols were contacted slightly west of the village. In the morning and afternoon heavy enemy traffic was observed in the Schirrhein - Bois de Soufflenheim - Oberhoffen sector and the Division artillery took many targets under fire. Small groups of enemy and a tank were seen north of Haguenau in the morning and a 313th OP in a steeples was knocked out by the tank's fire. The enemy continued active patrolling north of the river in the 222nd sector where the outposts engaged them twice during the afternoon. In the evening the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 315th relieved the 314th, the relief being accomplished by 2240. The 1st Bn, 314th moved to Winterhouse and the 3rd Bn to Niederschaeffolsheim.

25 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. At 2005, 24 January, heavy artillery concentrations began to be received in the 222nd sector and shortly thereafter enemy began crossing the Moder River by means of foot bridges. This attack was made by elements of the 7th Parachute Division, 25th Panzer Grenadier Division and 47th Volksgrenadier Division and a penetration was quickly made between the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, 222nd. The enemy seized the western part of Schweighausen and occupied the eastern two-thirds of the Bois d'Ohlungen. Task Force Wahl was organized again immediately after this attack and was composed of the 222nd, 314th, 232nd, CC "B" of the 14th Armored, the Reconnaissance Troop and elements of the 781st Tank Battalion. At 0915 the 232nd was released from Corps control and began moving to areas nearer the scene of action and CC "B" was placed under Task Force Wahl at 0740. Elements of the 1st Bn, 222nd counterattacked early in the night and were held up around 962247 by strong infantry resistance. During the day, however, the enemy was slowly pushed back and in the evening the 1st Bn was on a line 967254 - 972242. On the battalion's left flank, the 3rd Bn, 314th was committed, between it and the 3rd Bn, 222nd. It attacked east from the vicinity of 965257 and at once met heavy small arms fire. It made some progress during the day and by late evening had advanced to a line approximately 967263 - 967254. At 1300 the 68th Armored Infantry Battalion attacked from 992235 and during the evening it fought up to a line 987241 -

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993247. The gap between this battalion and the 1st Bn, 222nd was protected by the 3rd Bn, 232nd which outposted its defensive positions northeast of Ohlungen. The 1st Bn, 314th attacked from the vicinity of 992242 at 0645. During the day it made good progress to the north and late in the afternoon it reported the western end of Schweighausen clear. The eastern end of the village was cleared by the 2nd Bn, 232nd by nightfall and slight resistance was met. Except for the recapture of Schweighausen, the Division's counterattack had not covered much ground during the day, but heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy: approximately 200 prisoners were taken and it was estimated that 500 enemy had been killed. The 3rd Bn, 222nd and 813th TD Reconnaissance Co held the enemy back at Neubourg during the night and in the day the enemy retaliated with heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire. No enemy tanks were reported south of the river. However, ten were seen north of the river at 977262 in the evening and were the target for an artillery TOT.

c. At 0300 the enemy began crossing the Moder River southeast of Haguenau near the factory at 064229. This crossing was made in assault boats by elements of the 10th SS Panzer Division. They advanced as far as 065225 where the 242nd counterattacked and threw them back. The enemy was forced back across the river, followed closely by the 242nd which reestablished its OPL. The last strongpoint of the enemy was at 065230 in the vicinity of the factory and here the infantry and supporting tanks inflicted particularly heavy casualties on the enemy. In this action about 100 prisoners were taken and an estimated equal number were killed.

26 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. Evidently deciding that the bridgehead was proving too costly, the enemy withdrew north of the Moder River during darkness. He left behind approximately 300 dead. Task Force Wahl attacked at 0730 and restored the MLR without resistance, the only fire being machine gun fire from north of the river. At once plans to relieve the 222nd and 232nd by the 101st Airborne Division were put into effect. During the afternoon and evening the units manning the MLR west of Schweighausen were relieved by the 501st Parachute Infantry and the 327th Glider Infantry. At 0145, 27 January, the Moder River line west of 005244 passed to the command of the 101st. CC "B" returned to the control of the 14th Armored and returned to its assembly area. The 222nd and 232nd also moved to assembly areas and returned to the control of Task Force Linden. The 1st and 3rd Battalions, 314th, upon relief by the 101st, moved to areas at Winterhouse and Niederschaeffolsheim where they closed in at 0250 and 0210 respectively.

c. Only light harassing fire was reported by the units on the MLR. Considerable enemy movement was observed during the day and numerous targets were fired on by the artillery. Interdicting fire was placed on the Oberhoffen - Schirrhein road in the morning after traffic was seen there. Groups of enemy and vehicles were also observed northwest of Haguenau during the afternoon and were dispersed by artillery and small arms fire. Enemy vehicular and infantry activity at Mertzwiller was fo

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willer was fired on by the artillery and the town was bombed by fighter-bombers.

27 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. The Division's sector was generally quiet throughout the day and the enemy showed no signs of aggressiveness. Enemy artillery and mortar fire was light with only a few rounds received, principally in the vicinity of Bischwiller, Kaltenhouse and the 242nd sector. Enemy were again seen north and northeast of Haguenau in the afternoon and small arms fire was placed on them. In the evening much enemy movement was heard on the Camp d'Oberhoffen - Oberhoffen - Schirrhein road and tracked vehicles were heard moving east from the camp. During the day the 222nd and 232nd moved from their areas to Chateau Salins, the prospective assembly area of the 42nd Infantry Division.

28 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. The Division continued to maintain its defensive positions along the Moder River line. The 313th had the 2nd and 3rd Battalions on line with the 1st Bn in reserve in Haguenau and the 315th had the 2nd and 3rd Battalions on line with the 1st Bn in reserve at Marienthal. During the evening the 1st and 3rd Battalions, 314th relieved the 242nd which moved to assembly areas near Niederschaeffolsheim and Wahlenheim. The 1st Bn, 314th relieved the 2nd Bn and part of the 3rd Bn, 242nd and the 3rd Bn, 314th relieved the 3rd Bn, 242nd. The relief was made without incident and at 2155 command of the sector passed to the 314th. During the day a little more enemy activity was noted on the Division's front, especially opposite Haguenau. At the eastern edge of the town at 047237 twenty rounds of artillery fire were received between 1720 and 1750 but there was little artillery fire elsewhere. A few rounds of Nebelwerfer fire were received at Bischwiller where the 315th also reported some direct fire.

29 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. At 0800 the 242nd passed the IP at Mommenheim and at 1535 it closed into its area at Chateau Salins. At this latter hour Task Force Linden was relieved of attachment to the Division. The Division's sector was again quiet with the enemy displaying no aggressiveness. North of the river enemy troops and equipment continued to be seen and numerous artillery missions were fired. Late in the afternoon six enemy were seen to move an artillery piece into position at 054254 and then fire into Haguenau. They and the gun were promptly put out of action by artillery fire.

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30 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. There were no important developments during the day and the enemy remained inactive. At 1410 fifty enemy who were observed assembling at 081212 were dispersed by artillery fire. Some vehicular traffic was reported in the vicinity of Oberhoffen - Schirrhein. Enemy fire was light although Haguenau was shelled several times by artillery and mortars. At 2115 the 2nd Bn, 313th relieved the 1st Bn which assembled in reserve at 027231.

31 January

a. Division CP: 900172, Schwindratzheim

b. During the night the Division successfully patrolled across the Moder River. Patrols of the 313th found the enemy present in strength in the northeastern outskirts of Haguenau. Large groups of enemy at 053263 and 123219 were the targets for artillery fire and a direct hit by an artillery shell was made on an enemy howitzer at 091204. During the night Haguenau was shelled with artillery and direct fire and twice during the afternoon for periods of thirty minutes 150mm fire was received in the town at the rate of one round per minute. Enemy mortar and direct fire was also received at Kaltenhouse where the church steeple was knocked down at 0935 by a concentration of direct fire. Continued traffic was observed at Schirrhein.

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